

## Church in the Community

### Lesson #13 How Shall We Wait?

**Romans 12:11–13** *not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer; distributing to the needs of the saints, given to hospitality.*

#### While We Wait for Jesus

**Matthew 24:4–6** (NKJV) *And Jesus answered and said to them: “Take heed that no one deceives you. <sup>5</sup> For many will come in My name, saying, ‘I am the Christ,’ and will deceive many. <sup>6</sup> And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not troubled; for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet.”*

**2 Thessalonians 2:1–4** (NKJV) *Now, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, we ask you, <sup>2</sup> not to be soon shaken in mind or troubled, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as if from us, as though the day of Christ had come. <sup>3</sup> Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, <sup>4</sup> who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.*

**\*Luke 19:12–13** (NKJV) *Therefore He said: “A certain nobleman went into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom and to return. <sup>13</sup> So he called ten of his servants, delivered to them ten minas, and said to them, ‘Do business till I come.’”*

#### Revival and Reformation While We Wait

“A revival of true godliness among us is the greatest and most urgent of all our needs. To seek this should be our first work.” - Ellen G. White, *Selected Messages*, book 1, p. 121.

**2 Peter 3:3–14** (NKJV) *knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts, <sup>4</sup> and saying, “Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation.” <sup>5</sup> For this they willfully forget: that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of water and in the water, <sup>6</sup> by which the world that then existed perished, being flooded with water. <sup>7</sup> But the heavens and the earth which are now preserved by the same word, are reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men. <sup>8</sup> But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one*

*day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. <sup>9</sup> The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. <sup>10</sup> But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up. <sup>11</sup> Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, <sup>12</sup> looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat? <sup>13</sup> Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. <sup>14</sup> Therefore, beloved, looking forward to these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, without spot and blameless;*

**\*2 Corinthians 5:17** (NKJV) *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.*

**Matthew 25:1–13** (NKJV) *“Then the kingdom of heaven shall be likened to ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. <sup>2</sup> Now five of them were wise, and five were foolish. <sup>3</sup> Those who were foolish took their lamps and took no oil with them, <sup>4</sup> but the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps. <sup>5</sup> But while the bridegroom was delayed, they all slumbered and slept. <sup>6</sup> “And at midnight a cry was heard: ‘Behold, the bridegroom is coming; go out to meet him!’ <sup>7</sup> Then all those virgins arose and trimmed their lamps. <sup>8</sup> And the foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ <sup>9</sup> But the wise answered, saying, ‘No, lest there should not be enough for us and you; but go rather to those who sell, and buy for yourselves.’ <sup>10</sup> And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding; and the door was shut. <sup>11</sup> “Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, ‘Lord, Lord, open to us!’ <sup>12</sup> But he answered and said, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, I do not know you.’ <sup>13</sup> “Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming.*

#### The Mission of the Church While We Wait

**James 2:14–24** (NKJV) *<sup>14</sup> What does it profit, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can faith save him? <sup>15</sup> If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food, <sup>16</sup> and one of you says to them, “Depart in peace, be warmed and filled,” but you do not*

give them the things which are needed for the body, what does it profit?<sup>17</sup> Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.<sup>18</sup> But someone will say, “You have faith, and I have works.” Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works.<sup>19</sup> You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe—and tremble!<sup>20</sup> But do you want to know, O foolish man, that faith without works is dead?<sup>21</sup> Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered Isaac his son on the altar?<sup>22</sup> Do you see that faith was working together with his works, and by works faith was made perfect?<sup>23</sup> And the Scripture was fulfilled which says, “Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.” And he was called the friend of God.<sup>24</sup> You see then that a man is justified by works, and not by faith only.

**\*1 Peter 2:12** (NKJV) *having your conduct honorable among the Gentiles, that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may, by your good works which they observe, glorify God in the day of visitation.*

**Titus 2:11–14** (NKJV) *For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men,<sup>12</sup> teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age,<sup>13</sup> looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ,<sup>14</sup> who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works.*

**Titus 3:8** (NKJV) *This is a faithful saying, and these things I want you to affirm constantly, that those who have believed in God should be careful to maintain good works.*

**Ephesians 2:8–10** (NKJV) *For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God,<sup>9</sup> not of works, lest anyone should boast.<sup>10</sup> For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.*

### Preparing for the Final Harvest While We Wait

**1 Corinthians 3:6–7** (NKJV) *I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase.<sup>7</sup> So then neither he who plants is anything, nor he who waters, but God who gives the increase.*

**Luke 10:1–3** (NKJV) *After these things the Lord appointed seventy others also, and sent them two by two before His face into every city and place where He Himself was about to go.<sup>2</sup> Then He said to them,*

*“The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few; therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.<sup>3</sup> Go your way; behold, I send you out as lambs among wolves.*

**John 4:35–38** (NKJV) *Do you not say, ‘There are still four months and then comes the harvest’? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest!<sup>36</sup> And he who reaps receives wages, and gathers fruit for eternal life, that both he who sows and he who reaps may rejoice together.<sup>37</sup> For in this the saying is true: ‘One sows and another reaps.’<sup>38</sup> I sent you to reap that for which you have not labored; others have labored, and you have entered into their labors.”*

**Revelation 14:15** (NKJV) *And another angel came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to Him who sat on the cloud, “Thrust in Your sickle and reap, for the time has come for You to reap, for the harvest of the earth is ripe.”*

“The world needs today what it needed nineteen hundred years ago—a revelation of Christ. A great work of reform is demanded, and it is only through the grace of Christ that the work of restoration, physical, mental, and spiritual, can be accomplished.” M of Healing, p. 143.

### The Wait Is Over

**Revelation 14:8** (NKJV) *And another angel followed, saying, “Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she has made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.”*

**\*Revelation 18:2** (NKJV) *And he cried mightily with a loud voice, saying, “Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and has become a dwelling place of demons, a prison for every foul spirit, and a cage for every unclean and hated bird!*

**Revelation 21:2–4** (NKJV) *Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.<sup>3</sup> And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, “Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God.<sup>4</sup> And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.”*